

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, GE, GW

SUBJ: GDR REACTS TO CDU CREDIT EMBARGO THREAT

1. A BRIEF ADN ITEM IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS SEPTEMBER 16

REACTS TO A WEST GERMAN CDU CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TO INSTITUTTE A CREDIT EMBARGO AGAINST THE GDR IF ELECTED. ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMAN ITEM, HELMUT KOHL IS QUOTED IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS AS SAYING THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CDU ELECTION VICTORY, KOHL WOULD USE A CREDIT EMBARGO TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GDR. THE EAST GERMAN NEWS ITEM SAYS THE REACTION OF "LEADING CIRCLES OF THE GDR" IS THAT KOHL DOES NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTIONS. IF HE WERE ACTUALLY TO PROCEED IN SUCH A FASHION TO "BREAK CONTRACTS AND ARRANGEMENTS" WITH THE GDR, THE GDR WOULD REACT, AND HAS NUMEROUS TOOLS AT ITS DISPOSAL WITH WHICH TO DO SO.

2. COMMENT: HAVING LET SIMILAR STATEMENTS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS BY OTHER CDU SPOKESMEN GO BY WITHOUT COMMENT, THE EAST GERMANS APPARENTLY FEEL THEY HAVE TO RESPOND TO KOHL'S TAKING UP THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS THEME. THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE GDR REPLY ARE FAIRLY LOW-KEY. IT IS CLEARLY MEANT, HOWEVER, TO SUGGEST TO THE CDU

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AND ITS BACKERS IN WEST GERMAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY THAT

THE GDR IS IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO WESTERN ECONOMIC
SANCTIONS IN A FASHION DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS
OF THOUSANDS OF WEST GERMAN FIRMS PROFITING FROM
INNER-GERMAN TRADE.COOPER

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